

**TRANSITION BLACK ISLE
MINUTES OF A MEETING ON
19TH NOVEMBER 2009
AT GLACHBEG**

Present

Ken, Vanessa, Wendy, Teen, Frank, Karin, Maggie, Martin, Penny, Tommy, Agric (Chair), Hugh, Christine, Alan and Bob.

Apologies

None

Minutes of last meeting

No matters arising

Treasurer's report

There has been a welcome increase in the level of donations since the written report was produced, with approximately £100 received – this was thought to be linked with Ken's efforts to increase the formal membership of the group.

Penny has signed and accepted the terms and conditions of the Climate Challenge Fund grant (these were essentially that we spend the money on the things we had said we would) and we now need to ensure, as far as possible, that we deliver. In particular, the £2,000 committed for training is proving difficult to spend because we are being offered various relevant courses free. Other points to note are that we now have funds to hold group meetings elsewhere than Glachbeg, and whilst we appreciate being able to use the centre, it would be good to meet in other parts of the Black Isle. Alternatively, if we decide to meet at Glachbeg, there are funds available to make a contribution. It may also turn out that we restrict the number of "public" meetings (e.g. film nights) in the claim, partly because the programme to date has been funded by Highland Council, which was not anticipated when we put together the CCF application.

There was a vote of thanks to Penny for her work in preparing and controlling the CCF bid.

Membership

There are now 24 members, but a further 47 who have not responded to ken's suggestion that they join. On balance this was thought to be a good result.

Group reports

Awareness:

The Climate Question Time is progressing well. Date is 10th December, venue Fortrose Lecture Theatre (in Leisure Centre). Louise Batchellor is confirmed as Chair, and panellists are Donnie McLeod, Eleanor Scott (Green Party), David Sutherland (Tulloch Homes), John Picken (Cereals), David Alston (Councillor) and Melanie McRae (Community Energy Scotland). The Awareness Raising Group will gather in questions, and present a short list to the main group for a final selection. Teen and Karin are speaking to Fortrose Academy S5 and S6 assembly to introduce the event and ask for questions. **Teen to ensure the**

event is in the next school newsletter. Vanessa has arranged for teas to be provided. **Everyone to provide ideas for people to invite personally to Wendy.**

Charles Kennedy has agreed to participate in an event on 16th January. This will take the form of a public interview by Mandy Meikle (ex Reforesting Scotland, now a freelance speaker on climate change).

There will be a film night in Munloch on 22nd January and one or two more after that, then a ceilidh in March.

Group to note that Low Carbon Stirling are talking in Fortrose on 21st January.

Sue is producing a list of public noticeboards so that for future events we can easily manage putting up posters.

The newsletter is progressing, now about half written. Print costs are expected to be about £300 - £400 (£300 in budget for 2 issues). There was a consensus that **we should make sure the print run is adequate**, as it was felt that it would be helpful to have a newsletter to distribute at public events. Also agreed that the **Awareness Group should consider placing copies in shops with a donations tin.**

It was agreed that **we should consider Muir of Ord and Conon Bridge part of the Black Isle, at least until they are included in more local Transition groups.**

Energy:

The Energy Group report was discussed (available at <http://groups.google.com/group/transition-black-isle/files>, file name is Energy group report nov 09.doc).

Food:

The Food Group has developed 3 projects for the coming Climate Challenge Fund bid.

A reskilling project, under the name "Grow North" will develop a training course to help make gardeners and allotment-holders make the most of their patch. Once materials (including tools and course notes) have been bought/ produced they will be available for future course. The total cost of the project is currently estimated at £32k – it was felt that this seemed a lot for training 30 people, notwithstanding the legacy element. **The Food Group is to refine the plan.**

A Community Garden project, to equip community gardens with poly tunnels, irrigation facilities and other infrastructure, has been costed at £6,000 per site. Netherton is one site, there are a number of other possibilities being investigated. Plans for a Black Isle Diet project are being developed. This is likely to be based on a web forum, where people can share experiences. The person who developed a similar project in Fife (<http://fifediet.co.uk/>) has offered to come up for a discussion. The project may run as a pilot for Lent.

There was some discussion about whether the group should also promote local markets, specifically the N. Kessock Market, but also a market idea being considered by the Cromarty Allotments Society (sorry, I'm sure they have a different name). **Anne to provide Penny with details of funding requirement for N. Kessock to see if we can fund outwith the CCF application.**

Heart & Soul

Nothing specific to raise – the group meets on the first Weds of each month to discuss the more emotional side of transition. Next meeting at Maggie's house in Jemimaville, 7.30 p.m. on 2nd December.

Arts, Crafts & Culture

A formative group looking at developing classes in using local materials for craft purposes. Part of the idea is to widen TBI to involve people whose main interest isn't necessarily in climate change and peak oil, but in developing skills which will in fact be important in a low-carbon world. Tommy is developing a proposal for the Climate Challenge Fund, focussing on training courses and a web-based exchange of ideas for things that can be made from local materials.

Transport

David Franklin is developing ideas. If other members are interested, it would be good if they contacted him via the Google group.

Funding/ Grant applications

Big question is how to manage projects over the next year – **Groups need to take account of the work needed from volunteers to manage contractors.** It was noted that the Climate Challenge Fund is unlikely to continue after 31st March 2011, and therefore it makes sense for us to put in an application for things which will be useful to us beyond that.

Martin and Penny to produce guidance to groups on carbon counting for applications and reports to CCF.

Meeting with Black Isle Councillors

Wendy and Penny had been invited to a meeting with the 3 Black Isle councillors. The meeting was very positive, and in particular the councillors are interested in the Community Wind Farm proposal. They are investigating some issues with Inverness Airport and Forestry Commission Scotland; Wendy and Martin to meet the councillors again on Monday 23rd November.

The councillors were also interested in food issues, and suggested that the next Ward Forum should focus on food.

Wendy and Penny had identified to the councillors a problem of resource within the group to manage finances, particularly in view of the work involved with grant applications and claims. The councillors were sympathetic; **Wendy and Martin to discuss this further at the 23rd November meeting, with a view to securing funding to out-source bookkeeping.**

David Alston in particular thought the group should look at waste issues. The meeting accepted that this is important, and to some extent it is addressed by the Food Group, but we don't have the resources at present to set up another group to look specifically at waste. One suggestion was that a charity shop on the Black Isle could help.

There was some discussion about whether we could work more closely with the Black Isle Area Partnership. **Vanessa to speak to Di Agnew.**

Other future events

There is a Food Group trip to Forres, primarily to look at the Community Garden, on 28th November.

Teen is meeting Plexus Media to discuss the new website on 16th December.

SNH has organised a meeting in Strathpeffer to exchange views on community issues – **Wendy to attend.**

Conflicts of interest

It was agreed that, where the group decides that a paid piece of work needs to be done, members of the group should be treated in the same way as non-members. Where projects are being discussed in which a member could have a financial interest (e.g. because they might want to bid for some of the work) they should declare the potential conflict. Where bids are considered, including one or more from members, the members concerned should not be present, nor should they vote on the outcome.

Wendy to invite someone from CVS to attend the next meeting to consider governance issues in more detail.

Website plans

Agric proposed that the new website should have structured discussion forums, which (amongst other things) could host the bulk of the discussion on sub-group issues. It was agreed that a small group including Teen, Hugh and Agric should meet before the Plexus meeting, to agree an approach. Teen to arrange the meeting.

Next meeting

Monday December 7th, 7.30 p.m. **Wendy to speak to Iain Good to see if Fortrose venue is available. Wendy to chair.**